

Message Text

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11-11

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 IO-10 ACDA-10 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6406

INFO US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1762

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: TECH, CA

SUBJECT: NRC DECISION ON PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IN LIGHT WATER REACTORS

REF: STATE 108701

US NRC FOR DR J LAFLEUR, JR

1. AS INSTRUCTED, CANADAIN ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIALS AND EXTAF
HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF SUBJECT ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. CANADIAN REACTIONS INCLUDED FOLLOWING:

A. SURPRISE BUT NOT DISAGREEMENT WITH SAFEGUARDS ISSUE RESULTING
IN SUCH FAR-REACHING ACTION;

B. INTEREST IN KNOWING ASAP IF ACTION WILL EXTEND TO FASE
BREEDER PROGRAM.

2. VARIOUS CANADIAN OFFICIALS COMMENTED FURTHER AS FOLLOWS:

A. NRC ACTION NOT LIKELY TO HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON CANADIAN
PROGRAM; HOWEVER, EVENTUAL DECISION DEFINITELY COULD AFFECT
CANADA.ON PRESET TIME SCALE, AECB WOULD MORE THAN LIKELY BE
AT ABOUT THE PRESENT PROCEDURAL POSITION OF NRC IN APPROXIMATELY
4-5 YEARS. A PRIOR, U.E., 1978 NEGATIVE DECISION BY NRC WOULD
THEREFORE HAVE CONSIDERABLE EFFECT ON AECB CONSIDERATION OF CANADAIN
LICENSEE APPLICATIONS.

B. BOTH AECB AND AECL MAY DESIRE TO MAKE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WITH
NRC AND OTHER APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENT OF
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SITUATION BETWEEN NOW AND FINAL DECISION IN ORDER THAT THEY

MAY BE AWARE OF STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD ASSIST
THEM IN CARRYING OUT THEIR OWN PROGRAMMATIC AND REGULATORY
RESPONSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS PLUTONIUM RECYCLE.
PORTER

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